

## Case 2582

***Filenchus* Andrassy, 1954 (Nematoda): proposed designation of *Tylenchus vulgaris* Brzeski, 1963 as type species**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is to designate *Tylenchus vulgaris* Brzeski, 1963, previously misidentified as *Tylenchus filiformis* Bütschli, 1873, as the nominal type species of the phytoparasitic nematode worm genus *Filenchus* Andrassy, 1954. This is in conformity with the usage of the last 33 years.

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1. In 1954 (p. 12) Andrassy erected the subgenus *Filenchus*, within the genus *Tylenchus* Bastian, 1865 (p. 125), designating as type species *Tylenchus (Filenchus) filiformis* Bütschli, 1873 (p. 37), and including four other species.

2. The description of *T. (F.) filiformis* by Bütschli is inadequate by present day standards (e.g. the structure of the lateral field and of the head region is unknown), although it is not a *nomen nudum*. The type locality is not indicated and no type specimens are preserved. Brzeski (1982, p. 72) concluded that the original description of *T. (F.) filiformis* was inadequate for generic classification 'according to the present taxonomy of Tylenchidae' and proposed that it be declared a '*species inquirenda*'.

3. In the same 1954 paper (p. 26) Andrassy redescribed *T. (F.) filiformis* from so-called 'neotype specimens' collected in Hungary (although under Article 75d this is not a valid neotype designation). His description was different from Bütschli's original by many characteristics (e.g. body length, tail shape). These new specimens were subsequently found to belong to a separate and distinct species described by Brzeski (1963, p. 532) as *Tylenchus vulgaris*.

4. Meyl (1960, p. 59) raised *Filenchus* to generic status with *Tylenchus filiformis* Bütschli, 1873, as type species. Subsequently *Filenchus* was considered to be a junior objective synonym of *Tylenchus* by many workers, while others thought the taxa distinct. This state of confusion is probably the reason why no species lists have been published since Meyl (1960) and that it was only in 1985 that *Tylenchus vulgaris* Brzeski was transferred to *Filenchus* by Lownsbery & Lownsbery (p. 9).

5. As the genus *Filenchus* Andrassy, 1954 was based on a misidentified type species, under Article 70b the case must be referred to the Commission. To resolve the situation there are three possibilities:

- (a) to validate the existing designation by Meyl (1960) to *Tylenchus filiformis* Bütschli, 1873. This is highly undesirable because it would make *Filenchus* a *genus inquirendum*;

- (b) to designate *T. filiformis sensu* Andrassy (1954). This is also undesirable because the species has no type material in existence, has no name of its own and one can never be absolutely sure that it is conspecific with *T. vulgaris* Brzeski, 1963;
  - (c) to designate *T. filiformis* in the sense in which it has been used since 1954 and for which Brzeski (1963) proposed the new name *T. vulgaris*. As the identity of this species is unambiguous, this seems the best solution.
6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:
- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous designations of type species made for the nominal genus *Filenchus* Andrassy, 1954 and to designate *Tylenchus vulgaris* Brzeski, 1963 as type species;
  - (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Filenchus* Andrassy, 1954 (gender: masculine), type species by designation in (1) above, *Tylenchus vulgaris* Brzeski, 1963;
  - (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *vulgaris* Brzeski, 1963, as published in the binomen *Tylenchus vulgaris* (specific name of the type species of *Filenchus* Andrassy, 1954).

## References

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